

ABSTRACT

**FLUOROCHEMICAL COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR TREATING A  
SUBSTRATE THEREWITH**

5

The present invention provides an aqueous composition comprising (i) a  
fluorocchemical compound and (ii) an ester derivative of an alpha-hydroxy acid, the  
ester derivative having a melting point of not more than 35°C and a water solubility of  
not more than 10% by weight at 25°C. The fluorocchemical compound is typically  
10 dispersed or emulsified in the aqueous composition.

The aqueous compositions may provide such advantages as providing good oil-  
and/or water repellency properties to a substrate upon application at ambient conditions,  
without the need for a heat treatment. Thus, the aqueous compositions may be used to  
provide oil- and/or water repellency properties to a substrate such as for example a  
15 fibrous substrate, e.g., leather or textile. In particular, repellency properties comparable  
to those achieved with a heat treatment step may be achieved.